

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.
REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
1945.



To The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Christchurch.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my seventeenth Annual Report for the Borough of Christchurch which is for the year 1945.

In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health, this report is again submitted in considerably curtailed form, in view of the need for strict economy in the use of paper and owing to the continued increased pressure placed upon my Department by war conditions.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

Detailed information together with many tables bearing upon vital statistics and sociological circumstances is to be found in all my Annual Reports up to the year 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. C. Conyers Morrell D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector - Mr. F. le V. Friend, M.R. San.I.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Contributions to the salaries of the above officials are made under the Public Health Acts.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1945:

Area (in acres) - 5,198.

Registrar General's estimate of Population at the mid-year, 1945 for purpose of vital statistics - 16,680.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	261	143	118
Illegitimate	44	20	24

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 18.3

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	3	-	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 40.9.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	195	97	98

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal causes - 1.
(other than from Sepsis)

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births - 36.1.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 38.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 22.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 37.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - 3.

Cancer accounted for 19 per cent of all deaths. There were during 1945, 37 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 19 were males, and 18 females. 2 cases of Suicide were recorded. 2 deaths occurred due to Road Traffic Accidents, and 3 were due to other violent causes.

The total number of Deaths under one year of age was 11 being 7 males and 4 females. Of these 6 deaths were attributable to prematurity or congenital defect.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1941 TO 1945.

Borough of Christchurch, and for England and Wales.

Year	Christchurch.			England and Wales.		
	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.
1941	15.3	12.2	34	14.2	12.9	59
1942	17.5	13.3	30	15.3	11.6	49
1943	19.7	15.1	48	16.5	12.1	49
1944	22.3	14.2	30	17.6	11.6	46
1945	18.3	11.7	36	16.1	11.4	46

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1945.

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	33.	22.	0.
Erysipelas	2.	0.	0.
Measles	152.	1.	0.
Whooping Cough	55.	0.	0.
Pneumonia	9.	0.	5.
Puerperal Pyrexia	1.	0.	0.
Dysentery	1.	1.	0.
Diphtheria	1.	1.	0.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year
No untoward result.

TUBERCULOSIS - New cases and mortality during 1945.

	<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Respiratory	15	2
Non-respiratory	4	2

Notification of Infectious Disease has been satisfactory. There is no evidence of excessive incidence, or mortality, from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

WATER SUPPLY:

The whole of the Borough is served by Mains of the West Hampshire Water Company, and apart from a very few outlying dwellings, all houses are connected therewith.

The source of supply is the river Avon, and complete purification of water is attained at the Company's works. To ensure absolute safety, final purification is obtained by Chloramine treatment.

The supply is constant and has continued to be consistently of the highest degree of chemical and bacterial purity. The water is of moderate hardness, no plumbo-solvent action, and entirely free of metals.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

Under the scheme adopted by your Council in 1940, immunisation of children up to the age of 14 years has continued to be carried out on a sessional basis under arrangements made with private practitioners.

The prophylactic used has been Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

The total number of children immunised during the year 1945 was 177. According to the estimated number of children 0-14 years of age resident in your Borough at mid-year 1945, given by the Registrar-General (2390), the percentage immunised is approximately 87%.

The total number of immunisations carried out in your Borough from the inauguration of the scheme in 1940 up to the present time is 2589. Apart from one septic arm shortly after the scheme was inaugurated, no untoward results nor unpleasant reactions have occurred.

With a view to securing that the greatest possible number of children should receive protection at the earliest suitable age, that is at or shortly before the first birthday, the Minister of Health, in November 1945, put forward a scheme whereby the primary responsibility for the immunisation of infants and children under school age should rest with Welfare Authorities, who would also be financially responsible for the expenses of immunisation of such children. He further advised that where a Borough or District Council, which is not itself the Welfare Authority, already provides facilities extending to children under school age, existing arrangements need not be disturbed except in so far as the Welfare Authority may decide to supplement them in order to expedite progress. In addition, in order to correlate satisfactorily throughout the country statistics of immunisation with diphtheria notifications and deaths from diphtheria the Minister of Health proposed a comprehensive system of records and returns, and advised the use of standardised individual record cards, each of which would contain all relevant information concerning every individual child immunised.

Since in your district the Hampshire County Council is the Welfare Authority, steps were at once taken to put the new scheme into effect, and following consultations between the County Medical Officer and myself, a satisfactory scheme was devised whereby existing arrangements for immunisations in your Borough should be continued, supplemented by immunisations of infants and young children by Medical Officers of the County Council when conducting Infant Welfare Clinics.

Immunisation of children of school age continues to be the responsibility, both financial and otherwise, of your Council.

Arrangements were also made by me for inauguration of the new system of recording cases, and at the present time every case immunised is recorded with full particulars on an individual card, and all cards are so filed as to enable ready correlation with diphtheria notifications and so on.

Incidentally, in view of the importance now attached to securing that children immunised during infancy should on reaching school age receive a further re-inforcing protective dose, I have in hand a scheme for bringing this to the notice of parents and guardians, and for impressing upon them the great desirability of presenting their children for treatment. During the present year 26 re-inforcement doses have been given.

The high importance and efficacy of immunisation is well illustrated by the fact that in 1943 out of 1079 deaths from Diphtheria in England and Wales, 14 deaths only occurred in immunised children against 1037 in non-immunised, and allowing for the proportion of immunised children against non-immunised, the estimated rate of dying from Diphtheria was about 25 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised. Again, the rate of Diphtheria attack was only 1.16 in immunised children against 4.06 in non-immunised.

SCABIES:

Cases of scabies have continued to be treated at the Gas Cleansing Station at Millhams Street First Aid Post. In addition, the more severe cases occurring among children suffering from secondary impetiginous infection have been admitted to "Killough", the Borough of Christchurch Evacuation Hostel, situated at New Milton, which hostel continued to function until November 1945 when it was closed by direction from the Ministry of Health.

During the year 1945, 49 cases resident in your Borough were treated at the Cleansing Station, and 6 cases at "Killough" Hostel. In addition, a few cases have received treatment from their own medical attendants. In general, medicament employed has been Benzyl-benzoate emulsion. In no instance has it been necessary to issue notices for compulsory inspection or treatment under the Scabies Order, 1941.

It is interesting to observe that the total number of cases treated officially during the year 1945 was 55 as against 116 treated during the previous year 1944.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION HOSTEL:

This Hostel situated at "Killough", Barton Court Avenue, New Milton, under the control of the Borough of Christchurch, providing accommodation for ten children, was closed by direction of the Ministry of Health in November 1945.

During the year 1945, 29 children were received into this Hostel, of which 18 were from the Borough of Christchurch; 11 were suffering from Scabies, 8 from severe Impetigo, and 10 were admitted for various reasons as unbilleteable. The remaining 11 children were admitted from the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

This Hostel was first opened in February 1942, since which time there have been admitted 161 children, of which 65 were admitted and treated for Scabies, and 57 for severe Impetigo, in addition 12 children were admitted for debility, and 27 as unbilleteable for various reasons such as bed-wetting, bad habits, etc. The length of stay in this Hostel varied from a few days only to several weeks.

Miss Stickland, Matron of the Hostel, and her assistant, Miss Ash, were both appointed on the opening of the Hostel in 1942 and continued in office until its closure in 1945. Throughout both these ladies did everything within their power to ensure at all times the general welfare, safety, and happiness of the children and also carried out in a most efficient manner treatment of severe cases of Scabies and Impetigo. Practically all children admitted to the Hostel, especially those remaining up to a period of two weeks or more, showed a very marked improvement in health and physique on their discharge. In this connection I would again press that so soon as circumstances permit your very serious attention should be given to the establishment of a convalescent home for children.

Medical supervision was carried out by Dr. Kate Ball, of New Milton, to whom I particularly wish to express my thanks for her unceasing interest in the welfare of the children. The hostel, in short, was to these children a veritable fairy-land.

VENEREAL DISEASES:

Defence Regulation 33B, Venereal Diseases, is administered by the County Medical Officer. In no instance during the year did the necessity arise of serving Form 2 upon a resident in your Borough suspected through information by two informers of contraction of Venereal Disease. In other cases arrangements were made for infected persons to attend the special Department at the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Boscombe.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

A very detailed and comprehensive report has been submitted to you by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. le V. Friend, of the work carried out by him during the year 1945.

The total number of inspections carried out during the year was 5485, of which 3428 were in respect of Rodent Control.

The following notes summarise the more important items detailed in Mr. Friend's report.

EXAMINATION OF MEAT AND FOODSTUFFS:

177 visits were made to food shops during the year. Mr. Friend makes reference to the quantity of severely cracked cups, plates, and saucers being used in some restaurants due to difficulty of replacement owing to present shortages. He draws especial attention to the fact that it is practically impossible to clean such utensils satisfactorily with consequent grave risk of infection being transmitted to users, since the cracks provide ideal breeding grounds for bacteria. In many instances, he remarks, particularly during the summer season, when cafes and restaurants are packed out, these utensils are only given a quick rinse in warm water, and at times such water is not changed as frequently as it should be.

I suggest that apart from cafe and restaurant proprietors taking every possible precaution to ensure as great cleanliness as possible, the real remedy lies in the earliest possible augmentation of the output of crockery supplies at reasonable marketing prices.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS:

40 visits were made. With slight exceptions dairies and cowsheds in the Borough are maintained in a very clean state. Mr. Friend considers the number of visits he has been able to make totally inadequate to ensure the continued cleanliness of premises and utensils. I entirely agree. In view of the greatly increased work in recent years placed upon your Sanitary Department combined with the considerable increase which has taken place in your population, it is essential that the personnel of your Sanitary Department be increased by Assistant Inspectors whose duties are to carry out the multitudinous inspections, apart from housing, now necessary to maintain a high standard of public health. It is quite impossible for one Sanitary Inspector to carry these out single-handed.

Mr. Friend draws special attention to the number of complaints received respecting the poor-keeping-qualities of milk supplied to consumers and attributes this to the fact that commonly churns of milk which have been subjected to cooling processes are left standing often for hours, and often exposed to the action of a hot sun, on a hedge or on the kerb waiting to be collected by lorries which transport them to the various milk depots. The obvious remedy, he suggests, is to cut down to an absolute minimum the period between production and delivery to the bulking plant, and thus obviate the tremendous waste of a most valuable article of food.

In order to ensure that clean milk is not contaminated by being placed in dirty bottles, 10 samples of "bottle-washings" were, at intervals, submitted to the County Laboratory for analysis. Of these 10 samples no less than 6 were found unsatisfactory. The bacterial counts were extremely high in three cases, and in three coliform organisms were present. Investigation showed that in most cases the trouble was due to too low a temperature and too weak a solution of detergent in the cleansing of milk bottles.

It is regretted, Mr. Friend remarks, that the Ministry of Health has not yet laid down a definite standard of cleanliness for milk bottles, and that the setting of such standards as do exist has been left to private individuals.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION:

6 premises were provided with a completely new system of drainage during the year. In addition, the drains of 8 other premises were partly relaid.

VERMIN (BUGS):

7 complaints of bug infestation were received during the year. In 4 cases only were these complaints definitely confirmed. All premises were treated with "Zaldecide".

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

During the year owing to shortage of labour and other circumstances fortnightly collection of household refuse was substituted for weekly collection. This service proved, as was to be expected, unsatisfactory and arrangements have now been made to revert to weekly collection.

The disposal of refuse has continued to be carried out by controlled tipping at the Corporation Dump at Stanpit Marshes. Close upon one and half acres of marsh-land adjoining Stanpit have now been raised well above flood level.

This area is not now contiguous to the tip. Mr. Friend suggests that consideration should now be given to utilising this land for such purpose as a playing field or tennis court, and incidentally preventing the area becoming overgrown with weeds. This, I would remark, would be of material advantage towards removing what has long been an eyesore in this vicinity and one which has for many years past given rise to frequent and I consider not unjustifiable complaint from residents living in Stanpit.

DISINFECTING STATION:

During the year 1041 blankets, 268 mattresses, and 280 pillows were passed through the Bacterol Disinfector.

In addition owing to lack of transport several lots of bedding and clothing were dealt with at premises where there had been cases of infectious disease. I am hopeful that arrangements which you have at present in mind for provision of adequate transport facilities will shortly mature. They are, in view of the present rapid increase of your population, highly desirable and indeed essential. I am further of opinion that in the near future in view of the considerable increase of population which has taken place in your Borough within recent years it will become incumbent upon you to give consideration to the acquiring of a steam-disinfector to replace or supplement the small Bacterol chemical disinfector which with but difficulty now meets the demand made upon it.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS:

Acting on instructions issued in 1944 by the Ministry of Food (Infestation Branch), during the year appointment was made of an Assistant Rodent Officer who commenced duties in January 1945.

The excellent work carried out by this officer is fully detailed in a comprehensive table in Mr. Friend's Annual Report, showing monthly results throughout the year of work undertaken. During the year the number of premises inspected was 3428, the number of points baited was 14,865, and the estimated number of rats destroyed was 1,200..

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES:

Number of Notices served:-

Notices	: Outstanding : 31.12.44.	: Number : served.	: Compiled : with	: Work done : by L.A. in : default.	: Outstanding : 31.12.45.
Informal	: 7	: 114	: 114	: -	: 7
Statutory	: 2	: 13	: 9	: 3	: 3
Total	: 9	: 127	: 123	: 3	: 10

Summary of Statutory Notices served:-

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936..... 2
 Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936..... 11
 Number of letters writton.....1359

CAMPING SITES:

Restrictions on camping in certain areas were imposed during the War, these restrictions were in accordance with S.R. & O. 1945, No. 504, revoked as from the 9th. May 1945.

Some six holiday camps have re-opened in the Borough. There appears likely to be an increasing demand in the future for camping sites. Camping sites when well away from residential premises, provided they are well ordered and maintained in a satisfactory condition with respect to general sanitation, provide a much to be desired amenity for visitors to your Borough; should however these be situated in the near vicinity of residential properties they can cause serious interference with the amenities quietude and rightful enjoyment of owners and occupiers of near-by houses.

In one case in particular a considerable camp situated in one of the best residential areas in your Borough is on two sides adjacent to houses, and caravans are frequently located within 20 feet or less of the small gardens of these properties whose main windows overlook the caravans and thereby view is seriously obstructed and damaged. Incidentally the quietude of residents is disturbed by noise including that arising from wireless sets. In addition, the practice of constructing sumps for waste-waters and slops in close proximity to caravans is bad in principle since it may well lead to nuisance arising from flies or even noxious smell especially during spells of warm weather; under certain circumstances the somewhat natural temptation to use such sumps for the disposal of liquid filth would in fact contravene your Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures. I strongly advise that the construction of such sumps be wholly discouraged when caravans are located within 300 feet of dwelling houses, their place being taken by proper receptacles the contents of which are to be disposed of daily either into a suitably situated receptacle for sullage waters connected with the main sewers, or where this is not possible into a proper constructed sump situated in land well away from occupiers of houses or of caravans.

Speaking of Caravan Sites Mr. Friend in his Report remarks that "it is to be regretted that under existing legislation the Council have no power to withdraw or cancel a licence once granted. This matter " he continues "has been brought to the notice of Mr. Silkin, Minister of Town and Country Planning who has promised that it will receive consideration". I am hopeful that legislation may be enacted whereby when abuse of licence occurs causing annoyance or disturbance to the amenities of near-by residents and rate-payers power to revoke or cancel licence may become possible.

Apart from licensed sites, the locating of caravans, tents, and similar structures permissible under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936, for a limited period prescribed by the Act, when on land contiguous to inhabited houses, can also cause serious interference with the amenities of residents, and I suggest that in view of the marked increase in the number of caravans and similar structures now being so used, legislation should be devised whereby it becomes impossible for persons to inflict such temporary annoyance upon the residents of your Borough. While I have no wish in any way to limit opportunities for visitors and others to enjoy the remarkable holiday facilities and health-promoting amenities offered by your Borough and its environs, I feel most strongly that any annoyance to or interference with rightful enjoyment of their properties by residents of your Borough is much to be deplored, and may indeed in the future materially deter the wholesome development and prosperity of your Borough a matter which, I know your Council have much at heart. The whole matter is one to which I would urgently direct your serious attention and consideration.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

I have in previous Reports drawn attention to the inadequacy of public conveniences in your Borough. To some extent within recent years improvement has taken place, but there still remains a serious lack of suitable and sufficient commodious accommodation facile of access at a convenient central point in the town. I am hopeful that recent consideration which you have given to provision of such may shortly mature. The rapidly increasing population and number of visitors to your town makes this much and urgently to be desired.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT: Venereal Diseases Act, 1917; Food and Drugs Act; Maternity and Child Welfare Acts; and Midwives Act; are administered by the County Council.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE: See Reports for 1938, 1939, and 1940.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD WELFARE:

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the Staff of the County Medical Officer, as also the conduct of Child Welfare and School Clinics, Tuberculosis, Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic, Dental and Ante-natal Clinics, all of which are conducted at the Millhams Street Welfare Centre.

The general health of infants and children has continued to be well maintained.

While the sanitation of schools in your Borough is on the whole satisfactory, the method whereby urinals in large schools are flushed by means of hand hoses is in my opinion neither satisfactory nor hygienic. I have for some years past advised that these urinals be equipped with automatic flushing appliances, and I would also press that a far more adequate provision of hand-towels in connection with ablution benches be supplied than is at present the practice. Inadequate provision necessarily gives rise to grave risk of spread of skin infections.

In my Report for 1943 I stressed and particularised at some length the need for one or more Convalescent Homes for ailing and debilitated children. During 1945 a scheme put forward for the establishment by private enterprise of such a Home in your Borough unfortunately failed to mature. I would again press that consideration be given to this provision and very desirable adjunct to the health services.

DAY AND RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES:

The Children's Nursery established during the War at Square House, administered by the County Council, has continued to function in an eminently satisfactory manner.

This Nursery is staffed by a Matron with four Assistants, and a cook, and provides day accommodation for up to 38 infants for whom dinners and teas are provided. This Nursery forms an asset of considerable value to your Borough in that relief from care and responsibility is afforded to mothers of infants who for various reasons are compelled to earn their living by work away from their homes.

There are also now established in your Borough two Residential Nurseries, one conducted by private enterprise situated in the Friars Cliff area, the other conducted under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and situated in Addiscombe Road. This latter, known as the Brooklyn Red Cross Baby Home, provides accommodation for up to 12 children under the age of five years; 10 cots are maintained occupied with 2 in reserve for emergency cases. Fees for maintenance are very

moderate and are arranged on a sliding scale according to parents' circumstances; admission is available for the infant of any mother in need of help. The Home is staffed by a fully trained Nursery Nurse as Matron, and a State Registered Nurse as Assistant Matron, who are assisted by personnel of the Christchurch British Red Cross Division. The home is ideally situated and fully equipped and has the great advantage of a large garden for play and open-air treatment.

ILLEGITIMACY:

It will be observed under Extracts from Vital Statistics in this Report that a markedly high proportion of illegitimate births occurs in relation to legitimate births. The illegitimacy rate in fact for your Borough for the year 1945 was 144 per 1000 births as against 124 in the previous year and as against 43 in 1938. The rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1945 was 92 whereas in 1938 it stood at 42.

Small fluctuations in the illegitimacy rate are attributable to several causes mostly associated with economic circumstances, and in general they also exhibit an appreciable seasonal periodicity. As is to be expected somewhat greater fluctuations occur during periods of war and such fluctuations are common to all countries. Towards the termination of the first World War an appreciable increase occurred in the illegitimacy rate, the rate for England and Wales rising from a normal figure of approximately 43 which obtained throughout the early years of the present century to 63 in 1919. In the 1920's the rate fell back to normal and so remained until the recent War, during which it gradually rose to a figure considerably higher than that reached during the first World War.

While the rate for your Borough is abnormally high it may be anticipated that following the cessation of warfare and the consequent removal of troops from your District this rate will in due course return to a much lower and more satisfactory figure.

GOATS' MILK:

In recent years a considerable increase has occurred in the keeping of goats for their milk, a demand for this milk having arisen owing to War circumstances. In general the consumption of milk obtained is limited to members of the family keeping goats, but in several instances milk is also purveyed for consumption to other persons.

So far as I understand no provision exists under the various Milk and Dairy Orders for control of the production and purveyance of Goats' Milk, these Orders having application only to Cows' Milk. The increasing demand which is arising for goats' milk and the increasing tendency for persons to keep one or more goats for private use, a matter which I think is to be encouraged rather than discouraged in view of the marked food value of goats' milk, and its products, of necessity calls for consideration respecting risks to health which may and do occur from its consumption.

Goats' Milk in precisely the same manner as cows' milk is capable of conveying to man the organisms of several serious infections, and in view of this fact I suggest that serious consideration should now be given to legislation providing for control of production and sale as is the case with cows' milk. No serious hardship would thereby be inflicted upon persons keeping goats, while their own families and the public would thereby be safeguarded against a very definite and ever present potential risk of infection.

In your Borough during the present year a case has occurred of Relapsing Fever, a serious illness arising from infection from the consumption of milk infected with the organism responsible for outbreaks of Malta Fever in various parts of the world. This organism as also most other infective organisms conveyed by milk is highly susceptible to heat, and I strongly advise, as I have invariably done with respect to cows' milk, that all goats' milk should be pasteurised, or where this is not practicable, be scalded or boiled before being consumed.

GENERAL:

The incidence of infectious disease during the year has been exceptionally low, and the general good health of the population has been well maintained. During the year, apart from one military case of Diphtheria, one case only of Diphtheria occurred among the civil population, a fact of considerable interest relative to the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme which has been successfully maintained in your Borough.

Following the termination of War many matters of high importance to the welfare and future prosperity of your Borough will very fully occupy your attention. Among these the most outstanding and the most urgent is the provision of housing. While I am aware that every effort has been and is being made by your Council to meet this great and immediate need, I feel most strongly that many of the restrictions at present imposed by Government Departments should be sufficiently relaxed to allow of far more rapid building of new houses than is at present the case.

Recently a young ex-service man remarked to me that to own a small home and a little piece of land in England was worth far more than a palace and a hundred acres in any other country. He was one of the few fortunate returned to civilian life who had found such a home and whose content was manifest in occupying his spare time on converting his small rough unmade garden plot into a little paradise for his wife and family. "The Foundations of National Glory are set in the Homes of the People" remarked King George V shortly after the first World War. It is indeed imperative if national glory and the happiness of the people is to be maintained that such speedy and strenuous efforts as were lately put forth to produce in the shortest possible space of time implements and edifices for War be now directed with a similar energy and cutting of much Red Tape to providing materials and labour for the building and equipment of homes commensurate with healthful living. I feel most strongly that such should take precedence of all luxury building and manufactures at the present time.

There are at the present moment, many unhappy people in Christchurch, as elsewhere, whose eyes look eagerly towards you and the Government to help them towards decent housing and decent living.

When I first took office as your Medical Officer of Health some 17 years ago I found Christchurch a happy and prosperous little community of less than 9000 inhabitants. Since then your population has nearly doubled itself. In view of my years my term of office will necessarily before long come to its close. It is my most sincere hope that I may officially leave your enlarged Borough the home-land of a community as contented and happy as I found it, and able to enjoy to the full the many sanitary improvements and health-promoting amenities which have been effected since I first came among you.

I beg again to express to your Council and its officers my appreciation of continued help and consideration extended to me.

I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

C. CONYERS MORRELL.

20th. August, 1946.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,
of the Borough of Christchurch.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to
you my fifth Annual Report covering the period 1st January to
31st December, 1945.

PREAMBLE :-

This has proved to be the busiest year since taking
up my duties in 1941, and I have found it quite impossible to
deal adequately with the many activities demanded of me by
the department. In many instances it has been found necessary
to set aside matters which demanded, if not immediate attention,
at least attention in the near future. Unfortunately, each day
has brought its full quota of work and I regret to have to state
that the matters referred to above have still not been given the
attention they merit. I have in mind, in particular, the
supervision of premises used in connection with the preparation
of food; i.e., hotel and restaurant kitchens; the manufacture
and sale of Ice Cream; the production and distribution of milk;
bakehouses; housing conditions generally, with particular
reference to repairs and overcrowding; the inspection of shops,
under the Shops Acts., etc., etc.

I have given this matter very careful consideration and
have arrived at the conclusion that the increasing responsibilities
can only be adequately met by the appointment of another fully
qualified Sanitary Inspector. Realising the difficult times
through which we have been passing, I have refrained from bringing
this matter to the attention of the Council, but I now feel that
any further procrastination would prove to be false economy and
could only result in inefficiency. I have therefore decided to
bring this matter to the attention of the Public Health Committee
in the very near future and ask them to consider the appointment
of a qualified assistant, and I sincerely hope that this request
will be given sympathetic consideration.

A total of 5485 inspections was made during the year,
an increase of 2738 on the previous year. This large increase
is mostly due to visits in connection with Rodent Control. Of
the number of inspections carried out, 400 were made while work
was in progress.

Table 1 sets out in detail the principal matters
which were made the subject of these visits.

The principal items of the report are set out in
classified order as follows :-

1. HOUSING - SLUM CLEARANCE :-

This, in my opinion, is a heading which could well be
deleted from my Annual Reports as no work of this nature is

permitted during the present tremendous shortage of housing accommodation, nor are such schemes likely for a considerable number of years. Like most towns, Christchurch is not completely devoid of slums, though it is only fair to state that the number of premises which require to be dealt with in this manner is not great. On the other hand, the number which, though not falling within the category of "Slums", do not conform to the general standard of housing in this Borough, is naturally much greater, a considerable number of properties being without baths, sinks and accommodation for the storage of food.

A careful watch is being maintained on the poorer class of dwellings and essential repairs are called for as and when necessary.

2. HOUSING - RECONDITIONING :-

Work of this nature has been more or less suspended during the war years and only absolutely essential repairs were called for or permitted. The situation has somewhat eased of late, and though the Control of Civil Building Regulations (referred to later on in this report) do limit the nature and amount of work which can be done, it has been found possible to deal with a considerably larger number of properties which, due to enforced neglect during the war, were in urgent need of attention, a total of 62 houses having received attention during the year.

3. HOUSING - ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING :-

The housing situation is such that I feel that the overcrowding survey carried out in 1936 can no longer be relied on as an authentic guide to present day conditions. There is not the least doubt that a tremendous number of houses in the Borough are today overcrowded, and although no complaints of overcrowding were lodged with the department during the year, the large number of persons (624) who have made application to the Town Clerk for accommodation can be taken as an index of the conditions prevailing in the Borough. From a study of individual applications it is estimated that 2,198 persons are living under conditions which would not be tolerated in normal times. Every endeavour is being made by the Council to remedy these appalling conditions and for that purpose several large houses have been converted into flats; other properties have been requisitioned and the building programme is being accelerated.

From the foregoing remarks, it will no doubt be appreciated that Table 7 which deals with overcrowding, does not give a true picture of the position as it is today. The full facts could only be got by carrying out another complete survey and such a survey is, I'm afraid, out of the question at the present, as a special staff would have to be employed for the purpose.

4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION :-

I have little to add to the remarks which I made in my Report for 1944. Slaughtering is still carried out in the Government Controlled Slaughterhouses at Bournemouth. Only a very small quantity of meat was condemned during the year, such meat being returned to the Ministry of Food Depot at Bournemouth for processing.

177 visits were made to food shops during the year. These premises are generally maintained in a satisfactory

condition. As pointed out in my opening remarks, however, I feel that considerably more attention should be given to these premises to ensure a high standard being maintained.

Due to present shortages, and the consequent difficulty of replacing broken or cracked crockery-ware, severely cracked cups, plates and saucers are being used in some restaurants. It is practically impossible to clean such utensils satisfactorily, the cracks providing ideal breeding grounds for bacteria, with the result that there is a grave risk of infection being transmitted to the users. It is therefore more than ever imperative that such utensils should be carefully cleansed and sterilised between use, and this is only likely to be done if constant supervision is maintained. In many instances, particularly during the summer season, when cafés and restaurants are packed out, these utensils are only given a quick rinse in warm water, and at times such water is not changed as frequently as it should be.

Table 2 shows in detail the articles of food condemned during the year.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES :-

There are only 4 slaughterhouses in the Borough, and because of the arrangements referred to in item 4 above, these are no longer in use. It is to be hoped that when the present system of centralised slaughtering is discontinued that the Council will seriously consider providing a Municipal Abattoir. There is not the least doubt but that there would be objections to such a scheme, but the advantages which such a building would offer would far outweigh the inconvenience which might be caused to private owners.

6. DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS :-

There has been no change in the Register during the year under review, and Table 3 sets out in detail the particulars recorded therein.

Whereas 54 visits were made to these premises last year it has only been possible to make 40 visits during the year under review, a number which I consider totally inadequate to ensure the continued cleanliness of the premises and utensils.

On the whole, the dairies and cowsheds in this Borough are maintained in a very clean state, but as everywhere, there are exceptions which are a more or less constant source of concern to the department.

Numerous complaints of the poor keeping-qualities of the milk supplied to consumers were received during the year. These complaints have been more numerous since the introduction of the "zoning scheme". In many instances, the milk supplied is 24 and at times 36 hours old by the time it reaches the consumer. Little wonder then that it will not keep for any length of time.

Article 24 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, requires every cowkeeper to cause the milk produced to be immediately cooled to a temperature not more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the temperature of the water used for cooling. This requirement need not be complied with if the milk is at once delivered by road to a collecting station provided with cooling facilities, or is used for making butter, cream, etc., or is sold direct to the consumer, either by the cowkeeper or a retailer.

The object of "cooling" is to inhibit the growth of the bacteria present in the milk and thus slow down the souring process. It is therefore all the more to be regretted that one daily sees churn upon churn of milk which has been subjected to the cooling process, standing on a hedge or on the kerb, often exposed to the action of a hot sun, waiting to be collected by the lorries which transport it to the various milk depots. Some of these churns are exposed to the sun's rays for hours on end and the temperature of the milk by the time it reaches the factory is no doubt such as to be conducive to the development of milk souring organisms. From this, it would appear that cooling is a sheer waste of time and labour and one cannot express surprise at the poor keeping-qualities of the milk. The obvious remedy is to cut down to an absolute minimum the period between production and delivery to the bulking plant, and thus obviate the tremendous waste of a most valuable article of food.

In order to ensure that clean milk is not contaminated by being placed in dirty bottles, samples of "bottle-washings" were, at intervals, submitted to the County Laboratory at Winchester, for analysis. The Analyst's reports were as follows :-

Sample	Bacterial Count	Coliform Organisms.	Milk Souring Organisms.	Remarks
1.	4,800	Absent	Present	Unsatisfactory.
2.	90	Absent	Absent	Satisfactory.
3.	1,700	Present	Present	Unsatisfactory.
4.	800	Present	Present	Unsatisfactory.
5.	80	Absent	Absent	Satisfactory.
6.	900	Absent	Present	Unsatisfactory.
7.	70	Absent.	Absent	Satisfactory.
8.	240,000	Present	Present	Unsatisfactory.
9.	960	Absent	Present	Unsatisfactory.
10.	210	Absent	Absent	Satisfactory.
11.	320	Absent	Absent	Satisfactory.

Where an adverse report was received, a thorough investigation of the methods used for the cleansing of bottles was made and the weak link searched for. In most cases the trouble was found to be due to too low a temperature and too weak a solution of detergent. In two cases it was found that no facilities for washing of the operator's hands were provided. Repeat samples were submitted and in all cases showed a definite improvement.

It is to be regretted that the Ministry of Health has not yet laid down a definite standard of cleanliness for milk bottles, and that the setting of such standards as do exist has

been left to private individuals or undertakings.

The present suggested standards vary from 200 to 600 organisms per pint bottle, and it has been the policy of the department to endeavour to obtain a standard of cleanliness which will produce counts approximating to those suggested above.

7. DRAINAGE :-

6 premises were provided with a completely new system of drainage during the year. In addition, the drains of 8 other premises were partly relaid.

8. GAS DECONTAMINATION :-

With the cessation of hostilities, the need for maintaining a squad of personnel to deal with food contaminated by gas was no longer necessary, and on instructions received from the Ministry of Home Security, vide letter H.S.C.42/45 Q.1 dated 30th April, 1945, the services of the personnel concerned were dispensed with.

9. VERMINOUS PREMISES :-

7 Complaints of bug infestation were received during the year. In 3 cases no signs of this pest could be found, but in order to set the occupiers' minds at rest it was decided to treat the affected rooms. In all cases "Zaldecide" was the agent used, and although this preparation is very effective, as an insecticide it has no ovicidal properties. Consequently, when the eggs develop, it is necessary to again treat the premises. With the advent of D.D.T., which is now available to Local Authorities, it is hoped and believed that the effectiveness of "Zaldecide/D.D.T." will be greatly improved, and that repeat treatments will not be necessary. I have not yet had an opportunity of personally gauging the efficacy of this preparation and am therefore not in a position to give the Council any concrete facts.

10. CAMPING SITES :-

Restrictions on camping in certain areas were imposed during the war and the camps in this Borough were therefore not used. These restrictions were, in accordance with S.R. & O. 1945 No. 504 revoked as from 9th May, 1945, and full advantage was taken of the opportunity thus offered to once more enjoy a camping holiday.

There are six camps in this Borough and they are all well run and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Innumerable complaints have been lodged with regard to the camp at "The Paddock", Bure Lane. The majority of these complaints were petty and could not be confirmed on visiting the site. This camp, which has been in existence for a number of years, is located in one of the best areas in the Borough and is, on two sides, surrounded by good class property, the owners of which rather object, on grounds of amenity, to the presence of this camp in their midst. It is to be regretted that under existing legislation the Council have no power to withdraw or cancel a licence once granted. This matter has been brought to the notice of Mr. Silkin, Minister of Town and Country Planning, who has promised that it will receive consideration.

Due to the tremendous shortage of housing accommodation in the Borough and to the influx of persons employed at two of the large factories, it was found necessary to grant permission to thirty-one applicants to occupy caravans on licensed sites during the winter months. Normally, camping is permitted only between the 20th March and the 30th September. It is to be hoped that a sufficient number of houses to accommodate these families will be erected in the near future and that the necessity to live in caravans will no longer arise.

11. PUBLIC CLEANSING :-

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION :- The year under review has not altogether been devoid of difficulties, and because of shortage of labour, sickness and other circumstances beyond my control, it was found necessary to alter the system which had been in operation since 1943. This system required householders to place bins near their gates on the day of collection, and although exceptions were made in cases of old age or infirmity, my Committee felt that in very many cases, because of the absence of men away in the services, this system proved somewhat of a hardship to most householders.

Due to shortage of labour and transport difficulties, it was not possible to revert to the peacetime system of weekly collection.

In March, I was instructed by the Public Health Committee to look into the question of instituting a fortnightly collection of refuse. I felt that such a scheme would not operate satisfactorily in a residential area such as this, nor yet would it meet with the approval of the residents. I further felt convinced that it would have an adverse effect on the quantity of material made available for salvage. However, as the members of the Public Health Committee were anxious to relieve householders of the responsibility of bringing dustbins to their gates, I was, on the 15th March, instructed by my Council to operate a fortnightly system of collection at as early a date as possible. Consequently, the necessary alterations in the disposition of transport and staff were made, and the new system operated from the 30th April.

As anticipated, there was an immediate outcry from all concerned and it was only with difficulty that the new system was maintained. Following upon repeated complaints by residents to members of the Council and to the department, I was instructed to revert to the peace-time system of collection as soon as possible. I informed the Committee that before this could be done it would be necessary to purchase another vehicle and apply for the release of three of the Council's employees who were in the Services. Both these requests were granted and as soon as the vehicle and personnel are available, a weekly collection will be operated.

In my Report for 1944, I drew the attention of the Council to the fact that the 2 Bedford Lorries which had then been in service for two and a half years were in need of painting to prevent further serious deterioration. I have not pressed this matter, as having no spare vehicle, it is rather difficult to lay one up for a fortnight or so for repainting. I would, however, enjoin the Council to authorise me to have this work done as soon as possible as I feel that any further prolonged delay will result in very serious deterioration of the bodywork.

These two lorries have now been in use for three and

a half years and although they have done good service they are beginning to show signs of wear.

(b) REFUSE DISPOSAL :- Despite rationing of both food and fuel, large quantities of refuse are still being produced, and the filling in of the Marsh is proceeding at a rapid pace,

A total of 1405 loads of house and trade refuse have been tipped on the Marsh during the year. In addition, 1427 loads of road sweepings, builder's rubble and other materials have been dealt with. The decrease in the number of loads dealt with is accounted for by the fact that the very considerable number of American and other Forces who were stationed in the Borough last year have now gone.

I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that a large area of approximately 1.43 acres of the Marsh, adjoining Stanpit, has now been raised well above flood level, and that this area which is not now contiguous to the tip, could well be made use of, either as a sports field, tennis courts, or any other purpose which the Council may have in mind. It does seem a pity to allow this valuable site to become overgrown with weeds when it could, at comparatively little cost, be put to a useful and possibly a revenue-producing purpose.

12. RODENT CONTROL :-

As reported in paragraph 3 of item 12 in my Report for 1944, the Council, acting on instructions issued by the Ministry of Food, (Infestation Branch), decided to appoint an officer to deal with the destruction of rats and mice in the Borough.

Applications were invited for the Post, and at a meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with this matter, Mr. J. Smith was appointed as Assistant Rodent Officer, commencing his duties on the 19th January, 1945.

The methods for carrying out the survey and destroying rats are laid down in numerous circulars which have been issued by the Ministry of Food from time to time, and the procedure set out in these circulars has, as far as possible, been adhered to.

The methods suggested by the Ministry entail a considerable amount of labour as numerous visits have to be made to properties which are found to be infested.

This, briefly, is the procedure - Houses or blocks of properties are surveyed; a Record Card is prepared in respect of each house where rats are found or suspected to be present. Unpoisoned bait (Pre Bait) is laid on three consecutive days, followed, if there has been a take of "Pre Bait", on the fourth day by Poison Bait. This in turn is followed up with unpoisoned bait (Post Bait) to ascertain whether or not the infestation has been completely cleared. In practice, everything depends upon the particular conditions prevailing in the properties concerned and in many instances repeat treatments have been found necessary.

I have left the whole of the practical work to Mr. Smith who has proved himself to be a very capable and conscientious officer.

At the suggestion of the Ministry, the Boroughs of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch were to be what is termed a "workable area", and for the purpose of the administration of the Infestation Order there were to be no boundaries between the three Boroughs. Unfortunately, no doubt due to pressure of

work in other directions, there has not been the close co-operation which was anticipated, and only one meeting has been held in Bournemouth. This lack of co-operation is to be regretted as it is obvious that to achieve the desired results concerted action in the three boroughs is essential.

The Ministry has ruled that local authorities must endeavour to recover from householders and business premises, the cost of ridding such premises of rats and mice. Acting on this ruling, the Boroughs of Bournemouth and Poole agreed to make a charge of 2/6 for private dwellings and 10/6 for business premises. Here I may add that this local authority was not consulted and was therefore left with no alternative but to adopt the same scale of fees.

I have no doubt that members of the Council will appreciate the fact that the charges referred to above cannot be expected to cover the cost of administering these regulations. Personally, I think it regrettable that any sort of charge has to be made for this service as I believe that quite a number of householders knowing that they will have to meet an account for any work carried out, are reluctant to report the presence of rats on their premises.

There is, I think, no need for me to stress the importance of keeping the rat population down to an absolute minimum. The tremendous damage which they do to food and property is no doubt well-known to all of you. What is perhaps not so well-known is the fact that outbreaks of food poisoning due to the Salmonella Group of Organisms have been caused by rodents contaminating food.

A study of Table 15 will reveal at a glance the work carried out and the results achieved in connection with the destruction of rats during the year.

Table 16 is a statement of income and expenditure.

13. DISINFECTING STATION :-

There has been quite a drop in the number of articles of bedding disinfected during the year. This drop is accounted for mainly by the discontinuation of "Fire Watching".

1041 blankets; 268 mattresses; 280 pillows; 1 bolster and 1 cushion were passed through the Dacterol Disinfector during the year. In addition, several lots of bedding and clothing were dealt with at premises where there had been infectious diseases.

Owing to lack of transport, it is not at present possible to transfer bedding and clothing from infected premises to the disinfecting station at Whitehall, with the result that these have to be treated as best possible at the premises concerned - not an altogether satisfactory arrangement.

14. COMPLAINTS :-

368 complaints were received and dealt with during the year. Table 5 shows in detail the nature of these complaints.

15. SALVAGE :-

As was to be expected, the coming of peace has been accompanied by a considerable decrease in the quantity of salvage

being made available for collection. Paper in considerable quantities is being placed in dustbins. This, quite apart from the loss of revenue, is to be deplored, as this class of material is still very urgently required.

The Ministry of Supply has on various occasions during the year stressed the fact that the stocks of waste paper in the country are at a dangerously low level and that material which is being deposited in refuse bins instead of being put out for salvage has resulted in waste paper and bones having to be imported, thus taking up valuable shipping space which could be used for the importation of food.

A comparison of Table 9 with that for the previous year will reveal that there has been a drop of approximately 33% in the quantity of paper collected and more than 50% in bones.

This dropping off is not of a local character only but has been observed throughout the country, and I think I am right in stating that it is the intention of the Ministry of Supply, by means of publicity and Salvage Drives to endeavour to make the public once more "salvage-conscious". It is to be hoped that these efforts will meet with the success which they deserve and will result in a considerable increase in the quantities of material now being made available.

The sum of £765. 5. 9. has been realised during the year.

16. CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING :-

In order to concentrate all available labour on the repair of War damaged houses, a system of licensing was introduced in the London Civil Defence Region and in other specified districts in the Home Counties. When the Regulation first came into operation, a sum of £100 could be expended on any property without obtaining a licence. At a later date, and in order to still further conserve labour, this sum was reduced to £10.

On the 1st August, the Control of Civil Building Regulations were, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 123/45 of the 5th July, 1945, made applicable to the whole of the country. Therefore, with effect from that date, no work costing more than £10 could be carried out without first obtaining a licence from the Local Authority.

Local Authorities were accordingly given powers to issue the necessary licences to enable work up to a maximum of £100 to be carried out. Applications for licences in respect of sums exceeding £100 had to be referred to the Ministry of Works.

On the 20th July, a further Circular (138/45) was issued by the Ministry of Health. In this Circular, Local Authorities were granted additional powers in connection with the issuing of licences for housing purposes in that licences for expenditure in excess of £100 could be granted for the following purposes :-

- (1) The erection of a new house or the preparation of a site for new houses, or the rebuilding of a cost of works house;

- (2) the completion of a partly built house or the completion, adaptation or repair of existing premises with a view to providing additional housing accommodation;
- (3) the repair of war damaged houses, essential to make them habitable, or to provide additional housing accommodation;
- (4) the execution of work on houses which is required by Statutory Notices.

From this it will be seen that the Local Authority can grant a licence up to any amount, always bearing in mind that work of an essential nature only can be allowed. Licences in respect of other properties (hotels; shops; garages; etc.,) are still restricted to £100, any licence for a greater sum being referred to the Ministry of Works.

As might be expected, these new Regulations have considerably increased the work of the department, each application having to be considered on its merits, and to assess these, it has naturally been necessary to inspect the properties concerned and check the Schedule of proposed works. Further calls have to be made when work is in progress to ensure that only such repairs as are authorised by the licence are being carried out.

Copies of all licences issued and a return of licences refused have to be sent to the Ministry of Works each week.

The following is a statement of the licences dealt with from the 1st August to the 31st December.

No. of Applications received.....	245	
Total Cost involved.....	£16,656.	4. 7.
No. Refused.....	5	
Total cost involved.....	£155.	0. 0.
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No. Cancelled.....	20	
Total cost involved.....	£566.	9. 7.

17. KITCHEN WASTE :-

Reference to my report for 1944 will reveal that kitchen waste was collected only on a very small scale during that year, the total number of bins in use being 24.

Early in 1945, the whole scheme was, at the request of the Ministry of Supply, revised, and a collection on a much larger scale was operated, 230 bins being placed in the various roads throughout the Borough.

Needless to say, there has been a certain amount of interference with the bins - a number of lids having been stolen and on occasions bins have been found thrown into ditches, over hedges or placed in gardens.

In some of the roads, because of lack of co-operation on the part of householders or due to the fact that many persons now keep poultry or rabbits, the response has not been encouraging. Bins are, therefore, moved about from road to road,

or the position of a bin in the road is altered as found necessary. Some of the bins have little or nothing in, but when taken away, there has usually been a demand from one or two of the householders for their return. The policy of the department has therefore been to cover all roads in the Borough, irrespective of how much or how little is placed in any particular bin.

On the whole, there is no reason to complain at the nature of the material placed in these bins. From time to time, paper and broken glass have been found, but this is more the exception than the rule.

In 1944 a total of approximately 13 tons of kitchen waste was collected and sold direct to pig keepers.

In May, 1944 the Concentrator Plant erected by the Ministry of Supply at Bournemouth commenced to operate, but owing to labour and transport difficulties, it was not found possible to deliver kitchen waste to this Plant.

Since the introduction of the enlarged scheme in January, all waste collected is now delivered to Bournemouth for concentration, the Bournemouth Corporation paying this Council 31/6d. per ton.

Cooked Kitchen Waste, or "Concentrate" as it is termed, is made available in the proportion of two thirds of Concentrate for every ton of Kitchen Waste delivered to the Plant. In other words, if 3 tons of waste is taken to Bournemouth, 2 tons of Concentrate is allotted for sale to pig and poultry keepers. Such concentrate is purchased at £4. 3. 0. per ton and sold at £4. 10. 0. plus a mileage allowance of 9d. per ton mile to cover delivery charges.

Tables 12, 13 and 14 set out in detail the transactions for the year under review. From a study of these, it will be seen that whereas only 13 tons were dealt with during 1944, a total of approximately 260 tons of kitchen waste and concentrate were collected and transported in 1945.

There is, as shown in Table 14, a deficit of £115. 17. 10. Against this figure, one must make allowance for the value of the bins, the purchase price of which was £134. 13. 4. Allowing 10% for depreciation and loss, these bins are now valued at £121. 4. 0. Therefore, there has been a slight profit on the undertaking, a profit which I hope may be increased in the coming year.

18. SHOPS ACTS :-

Occasional visits were made in connection with the operation of the above-quoted Acts. In one or two instances it was found necessary to caution shopkeepers with regard to closing hours and Sunday Trading. A total of 53 visits were made.

19. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS :-

Tables 10 and 11 show in some detail the cost of collection and disposal of refuse and lorry operating costs.

20. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION :-

With the increase of staff, the question of office accommodation in the department is causing some concern,

particularly in the general office where three clerks and the Assistant Rodent Officer have to be accommodated. The difficulty can only be got over at this stage by providing **separate** desks in lieu of the present cumbersome table which is of little or no value for office purposes.

I further wish to draw the attention of the Council to the very dirty state of the offices and the entrance lobby at the front of the Town Hall and I would like to suggest that this matter be given early attention as I feel sure that such conditions in a Public Health Department are likely to leave a bad impression on persons who have occasion to resort to the department for advice on health or other matters affecting their environments.

21. CONCLUSION :-

I wish to tender my sincere thanks to His Worship The Mayor (Alderman D. Galton); the Chairman of the Public Health Committee (Councillor E.J. Slinn) and the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. C.C. Conyers Morrell) for the support they have given me throughout what has proved to be an extremely busy year.

My thanks are also due to the Town Clerk (Mr. W.D. Platt) and to all members of the Staff for their very willing co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

Town Hall,
Christchurch.
July, 1946.

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND.

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE 1.
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Housing Visits	.....	425.
Re-inspections	.....	55.
Works in progress	.....	244.
Drainage Visits	.....	173.
Re-inspections	.....	32.
Works in progress	.....	156.
Visits on Complaint	.....	368.
Re-inspections	.....	28.
Slaughter houses	.....	2.
Food Shops	.....	177.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	.....	40.
Infectious Diseases	.....	44.
Verminous Premises	.....	33.
Factories	.....	5.
Out Workers	.....	-
Bakehouses	.....	5.
Schools	.....	3.
Public Conveniences	.....	11.
Vans, Tents, etc.	.....	55.
Shops	.....	53.
Refuse Collection and Disposal	.....	57.
Salvage	.....	35.
Rodent Control	.....	3428.
Miscellaneous	.....	56.
		<hr/>
		5485
		<hr/>

TABLE 2.

Articles of Food condemned during the year.

Apples	(Decomposing)	168 lbs.
Mackerel	(Rusted & Blown)	14 tins.
Milk	(Blown)	109 tins.
Butter	(Contaminated with Paraffin)	36 ³ / ₈ lbs.
Luncheon Meat	(Rusted & Blown)	16 tins.
Chopped Ham	(Blown)	10 tins.
Salmon	(Blown)	19 tins.
Peas	(Blown)	18 tins.
Oranges	(Unwholesome)	40 ³ / ₈ lbs.
Herrings	(Blown)	27 tins.
Beef Loaf	(Blown)	3 tins.
Spam	(Blown)	5 tins.
Pork & Beans	(Blown)	6 tins.
Bacon	(Mutilated and Contaminated)	62 ³ / ₈ lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	(Decomposed)	2 tins.
Cheese	(Mouldy & rat gnawed)	3 ¹ / ₂ lbs.
Pork Sausage	(Blown)	6 tins.
Steak	(Blown)	1 tin.
Eggs	(Unwholesome)	121.
Biscuits	(Musty)	10 ¹ / ₄ lbs.
Syrup.	(Wasted in transit)	1 tin.
Carrots	(Blown)	1 tin.
Soup	(Blown)	12 tins.
Stewed Steak	(Blown)	12 tins.
Crabs	(Dead)	6 stone.
Mackerel	(Unsound)	12 stone.
Sardines	(Blown)	55 tins.
Shrimps	(Blown)	2 tins.
Prem	(Decomposed & Blown)	2 tins.
Meat Roll	(Decomposed)	1 tin.
Lobsters	(Dead)	50 lbs.
Chocolate	(Affected with Maggot)	24 pkts.
Flour	(Contaminated by rats)	2 ¹ / ₂ cwt.
Brussel Sprouts	(Unwholesome)	100 Boxes.
Sugar	(Dirty)	3 ¹ / ₂ lbs.
Treot	(Blown)	1 tin.
Marmalade	(Severely damaged & Blown)	6 tins.
Pork Loaf	(Blown)	1 tin.
Beans in tomato	(Blown)	6 tins.
Baked Beans	(Blown)	2 tins.
Minced Beef Loaf	(Blown)	1 tin.
Jam	(Contaminated by mice)	12 jars.
Dried Eggs	(Contaminated by mice)	9 pkts.
Beans	(Blown)	286 tins.
Plums	(Blown)	2 tins.
Pearl Barley	(Musty)	88 lbs.
Strawberry Jam	(Contaminated by glass)	1 jar.
Marmalade	(Contaminated by glass)	13 jars.
Lemon Cheese	(Contaminated by glass)	2 jars.
Apricot	(Contaminated by glass)	2 jars.
Damson	(Contaminated by glass)	3 jars.
Black Currant	(Contaminated by glass)	2 jars.
Scotch Broth	(Blown)	3 tins.
Paste	(Broken in transit)	2 jars.
Crayfish	(Blown)	2 tins.
Pilchards	(Blown)	135 tins.
Meat & Vegetable Ration	(Blown)	2 tins.
Shrimp	(Blown)	1 tin.
Grape Fruit	(Blown)	1 tin.
Lamb's livers	(Unwholesome)	60 lbs.
Corned Beef	(Blown & Decomposed)	44 x 6 lb. tins.
Corned Beef	(Blown & Decomposed)	269 x 12 oz. tins.
Hind Quarter Beef	(Due to Overheating)	260 ¹ / ₄ lbs.
Corned Mutton	(Blown)	6 lbs.

TABLE 3.
MILK SUPPLY

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The following is a Summary of the particulars as recorded in the Registers at the 31st December, 1945.

No. of persons registered as Cowkeepers.....	13
No. of premises registered as Cowsheds.....	13
No. of cowkeepers who are also retailers of Milk.....	5
No. of persons registered as dairymen.....	12
No. of persons registered as retail purveyors of Milk....	12
No. of persons resident outside the district retailing milk in the area.....	4

TABLE 4.

Record of Nuisances abated
and Work done.

The following statement shows in detail the works carried out, as a result of action taken, under the supervision of the Department :-

(a) DRAINAGE

No. of houses or premises drained or redrained.....	6.
Repairs or amendments to existing drains.....	8.
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed.....	55.
Length in yards of stoneware drains laid.....	857.
Manholes provided.....	40.
New Manhole Covers.....	37.
Intercepting Traps fixed.....	11.
New gully traps fixed.....	19.
Fresh air inlet to drain fixed.....	9.
Soil Pipes or Vent Shafts fixed.....	3.
Soil Pipes or Vent Shafts repaired.....	-
Water tests applied.....	61.

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS

New W.C. Accommodation provided.....	16.
New W.C. Apartments provided.....	10.
New W.C. Pedestals provided.....	22.
W.C's cleansed and repaired.....	1.
New flushing cisterns provided.....	19.
Flushing cisterns repaired.....	5.
Baths provided.....	6.
Sinks provided.....	10.
Cesspits abolished.....	8.
Existing Waste Pipes trapped.....	1.
Pail Closets and/or Middens abolished.....	2.
New Waste Pipes Trapped.....	1.

TABLE 4 (Contd)

(c) MISCELLANEOUS

New roofs provided.....	3.
Roofs repaired.....	21.
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired.....	2.
Stack pipes provided.....	2.
Stack pipes disconnected or repaired.....	12.
Damp walls remedied.....	4.
Ventilation under floors provided.....	4.
Yards paved.....	9.
Yards repaired.....	-
Floors of rooms relaid.....	21.
Floors of rooms repaired.....	15.
New windows provided.....	19.
Rooms cleansed and redecorated.....	162.
Windows repaired and/or made to open.....	35.
Plaster of walls or ceiling repaired.....	36.
Doors repaired or renewed.....	34.
Ventilated food stores provided.....	-
Staircases provided or repaired.....	3.
Dustbins provided.....	17.
Nuisances / Overcrowding, abated.....	-
" / Animals.....	2.
" / Smoke.....	-
" / Accumulation of manure.....	-
" - Accumulation of refuse.....	12.
Workrooms cleansed and repaired.....	1.
Cowsheds and Dairies cleansed.....	1.
Fish Fryer's premises cleansed.....	-
Grates, Ranges, Coppers, renewed or repaired.....	35.
Rooms disinfected.....	64.
Insufficient Water Supply.....	2.
Miscellaneous.....	1.

TABLE 5.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

During the year 368 Complaints were received as detailed below :-

<u>NATURE OF COMPLAINT</u>	<u>NO. RECEIVED</u>
Choked drains.....	41.
Dilapidations.....	38.
Defective Water Supply.....	4.
Dampness.....	12.
Overflowing Cesspits.....	1.
Defective Water Closets.....	15.
Absence of dustbins.....	14.
Animals.....	1.
Smells.....	9.
Non-removal of refuse.....	22.
Defective sinks.....	2.
Accumulation of refuse.....	12.
Verminous premises.....	13.
Defective flushing Cisterns.....	3.
Overcrowding.....	-
Defective Flues.....	1.
Food.....	96.
Rats.....	57.
Non-collection of Salvage.....	1.
Miscellaneous.....	26.
	<hr/>
	368.

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 6 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

TABLE 6.

Number of Notices Served

NOTICES	OUTSTAND- ING 31-12-44	NUMBER SERVED	COMPLIED WITH	WORK DONE BY L.A. IN DEFAULT	OUTSTAND- ING 31-12-45
INFORMAL	7.	114.	114.	-	7.
STATUTORY	2.	13.	9.	3.	3.
TOTAL	9.	127.	123.	3.	10.

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED :-

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936..... 2.

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936..... 11.

Number of letters written.....1359.

HOUSING STATISTICS

TABLE 7.

HOUSING ACT, 1936: OVERCROWDING

(a)	1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	' 7
	2.	Number of families dwelling therein.....	7
	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein.....	-
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	' -
(c)	1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	' 7
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	-
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	' -
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.....	' -

Please see remarks on page 2 of report. Exact figures cannot be quoted as no recent survey has been made, as there is a shortage of housing accommodation in the Borough and no useful purpose would be served by serving notices to abate overcrowding whilst the present conditions continue.

TABLE 8.

RECORD OF PETROL AND OIL CONSUMED
BY REFUSE LORRIES DURING 1944 & 1945.

MONTH	PETROL (GALLONS)			MONTHLY TOTAL	OIL (PINTS)			MONTHLY TOTAL
	1.	LORRY 2.	4.		1.	LORRY 2.	4.	
<u>1944</u> JANUARY	70	55	8	133	14	13	7	27
FEBRUARY	87	55	17	159	-	2	7	2
MARCH	73	72	17	162	4	4	7	8
APRIL	73	42	9	124	2	4	7	6
MAY	84	70	15	169	4	4	-	8
JUNE	66	56	8	130	2	4	2	8
JULY	66	52	17	135	2	4	7	6
AUGUST	72	72	16	160	4	2	7	6
SEPTEMBER	69	69	16	154	14	4	7	18
OCTOBER	61	57	42	160	2	6	-	8
NOVEMBER	41	58	43	142	2	12	2	16
DECEMBER	73	58	18	149	4	6	-	10
<u>TOTAL</u>	835	716	226	1777	54	65	4	123
<u>1945</u> JANUARY	85	83	61	229	4	8	-	12
FEBRUARY	83	67	53	203	10	12	12	34
MARCH	98	67	55	220	2	7	7	9
APRIL	86	51	61	198	4	4	2	10
MAY	82	53	68	203	18	6	4	28
JUNE	83	54	61	198	4	15	12	31
JULY	83	41	58	182	4	4	2	10
AUGUST	65	42	69	176	12	6	2	20
SEPTEMBER	56	42	63	161	6	6	14	26
OCTOBER	56	54	67	177	12	8	4	24
NOVEMBER	71	64	66	201	6	10	2	18
DECEMBER	58	54	58	170	4	12	2	18
<u>TOTAL</u>	906	672	740	2318	86	98	56	240

TABLE 9.

RECORD OF SALVAGE TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED

31ST. DECEMBER, 1945.

MONTH	PAPER			METALS		BONES		TEXTILES	MISC	VALUE		
	T	C.	Q.	Lbs.	T.	C.	Q.			Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
JANUARY	4.	1.	0.	5.	--	--	--	--	--	25.	16.	8.
FEBRUARY	11.	13.	1.	25.	1.	19.	0.	0.	84.	100.	10.	3.
MARCH	5.	7.	1.	24.	3.	10.	3.	10.	89.	54.	3.	10.
APRIL	10.	1.	2.	16.	1.	22.	5.	2.	173.	87.	11.	3.
MAY	8.	3.	2.	18.	--	--	--	--	--	52.	3.	3.
JUNE	6.	1.	3.	24.	1.	3.	5.	3.	101.	64.	9.	4.
JULY	14.	5.	3.	12.	1.	1.	4.	2.	--	118.	1.	4.
AUGUST	6.	0.	2.	17.	--	--	--	--	--	45.	7.	3.
SEPTEMBER	8.	0.	3.	17.	1.	1.	4.	0.	--	73.	7.	5.
OCTOBER	10.	3.	0.	16.	--	--	--	--	--	72.	0.	0.
NOVEMBER	4.	1.	0.	1.	4.	1.	1.	0.	90.	45.	14.	9.
DECEMBER	4.	1.	2.	15.	--	--	--	--	--	26.	0.	5.
TOTALS	92.	2.	1.	22.	2.	7.	2.	18.	537.	765.	5.	9.

TABLE 10.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICEDETAILS OF EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1946.

No.	Item	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	<u>REFUSE COLLECTION</u>						
1.	Wages of Foreman	192.	11.	9.			
2.	Wages of Drivers	465.	9.	4.			
3.	Wages of Loaders	948.	11.	3.			
4.	Transport Charges	760.	3.	7.	2366.	15.	11.
	<u>REFUSE DISPOSAL</u>						
5.	Wages	201.	4.	2.			
6.	Tools & Implements, etc.	33.	1.	6.	234.	5.	8.
	Gross Expenditure - Collection & Disposal				2601.	1.	7.
	Less Gross Income - Collection & Disposal				47.	18.	2.
	Net Expenditure - Collection & Disposal				2553.	3.	5.

TABLE 11.

SUMMARY OF OPERATING COSTS OF CORPORATION'S

REFUSE & SALVAGE LORRIES.

1ST. APRIL, 1945 TO 31ST. MARCH, 1946.

LORRY NO.	DRIVER'S PETROL WAGES & OIL			INSURANCE & TAX			REPAIRS			DEPRECIATION			CLEANING & GREASING			TOTAL COST			NO. OF WORKING DAYS	TOTAL MILEAGE	TOTAL PETROL CONSUMP. (GALLS)	M.P.G.	COST PER MILE d.	COST PER HOUR d.	COST PER DAY					
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.												
1.	218.	6.	6.	82.	4.	6.	58.	0.	9.	27.	2.	7.	130.	0.	0.	21.	4.	8.	536.	19.	0.	302	4510	871	5.17	28.57	50.24	1.	15.	7.
2.	234.	14.	9.	62.	13.	4.	56.	13.	5.	28.	11.	10.	130.	0.	0.	22.	9.	7.	535.	2.	11.	302	4378	638	6.86	29.31	50.0	1.	15.	5.
4.	222.	7.	7.	75.	11.	10.	38.	18.	4.	40.	2.	4.	65.	0.	0.	17.	10.	11.	459.	11.	0.	301	7494	789	9.5	14.72	43.06	1.	10.	6.

ACTUAL OPERATING COSTS

1.	218.	6.	6.	82.	4.	6.	--	--	27.	2.	7.	--	21.	4.	8.	348.	18.	3.	302	4510	--	--	18.	57		32.	59		1.	3.	1.
2.	234.	14.	9.	62.	13.	4.	--	--	28.	11.	10.	--	22.	9.	7.	348.	9.	6.	302	4378	--	--	19.	10		32.	59		1.	3.	1.
4.	222.	7.	7.	75.	11.	10.	--	--	40.	2.	4.	--	17.	10.	11.	355.	12.	8.	301	7494	--	--	11.	39		33.	29		1.	3.	7.

TABLE 12.

RECORD OF KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

AND SALES DURING THE PERIOD

1ST. JANUARY TO 31ST. DECEMBER, 1945.

MONTH	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	VALUE		
					£.	s.	d.
January	7.	19.	3.	0.	12.	15.	1.
February	11.	1.	1.	0.	17.	12.	1.
March	13.	0.	1.	0.	20.	17.	8.
April	11.	12.	2.	0.	18.	11.	5.
May	17.	12.	1.	0.	28.	7.	11.
June	12.	3.	1.	0.	19.	8.	2.
July	14.	17.	3.	0.	24.	7.	0.
August	16.	6.	0.	0.	26.	5.	0.
September	11.	8.	3.	0.	18.	3.	11.
October	15.	0.	2.	0.	24.	0.	5.
November	12.	18.	0.	0.	20.	16.	6.
December	12.	0.	1.	0.	19.	7.	8.
<u>TOTALS</u>	156.	0.	2.	0.	250.	12.	10.

TABLE 13.

RECORD OF "CONCENTRATE" SOLD
TO PIG AND POULTRY KEEPERS

MONTH	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	VALUE		
					£.	s.	d.
January	4.	13.	0.	0.	23.	19.	4.
February	7.	0.	0.	0.	35.	12.	0.
March	8.	2.	0.	0.	39.	19.	10.
April	8.	8.	0.	0.	42.	11.	1.
May	11.	17.	0.	0.	59.	2.	8.
June	8.	2.	0.	0.	40.	7.	10.
July	9.	3.	0.	0.	45.	17.	3.
August	11.	7.	0.	0.	56.	8.	4.
September	7.	14.	0.	0.	38.	10.	4.
October	10.	2.	0.	0.	50.	14.	6.
November	8.	6.	0.	0.	41.	16.	0.
December	8.	7.	0.	0.	42.	0.	6.
<u>TOTALS</u>	103.	1.	0.	0.	516.	19.	8.

TABLE 14.

KITCHEN WASTE AND CONCENTRATE

COLLECTION AND DELIVERY COSTS

PERIOD 1ST. JANUARY TO 31ST. DECEMBER, 1945.

No.	ITEM	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1.	Payments for Swill	59.	5.	2.			
2.	Payments for Concentrate	431.	19.	0.			
3.	Wages of Driver	150.	19.	10.			
4.	Transport Charges	100.	9.	2.	742.	13.	2.
5.	Purchase of 200 Bins	134.	13.	4.			
6.	Painting of Bins	4.	6.	4.			
7.	Stationery (Invoice Books)	1.	17.	6.	140.	17.	2.
Gross Expenditure - Collection & Disposal					883.	10.	4.
Less Gross Income - Collection & Disposal					767.	12.	6.
Net Expenditure - Collection & Disposal					115.	15.	10.

TABLE 15

RODENT CONTROLSUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

MONTH	No. of Premises Inspected	No. of Points Baited				Bait Taken		Bodies Recovered	Estimated Total Kill.
		Prebait	Poison	Postbait	Prebait	Poison	Postbait		
January	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	595	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (Traps) 12	12
March	327	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (Traps) 2	2
April	288	971	151	517	670	130	28	35	151
May	271	1274	302	979	940	254	-	55	123
June	342	821	276	638	382	193	2	21	89
July	266	686	135	394	341	89	9	16	78
August	327	889	276	719	541	191	4	37	115
September	157	328	145	652	219	103	39	28	88
October	346	1178	225	1008	974	166	142	28	155
November	246	1135	446	332	589	297	32	105	353
December	119	181	51	156	85	28	-	3	34
<u>TOTALS</u>	3428	7463	2027	5375	4741	1451	256	342	1200

TABLE 16.

RODENT CONTROL.DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDING 31ST. DECEMBER, 1945.

No.	Item	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1.	Bait	3.	6.	3½.			
2.	Poison	2.	9.	3.			
3.	Stationery, etc.	7.	18.	3.			
4.	Advertising	6.	7.	3.			
5.	Bicycle	9.	12.	1.			
6.	Salary of Assistant Rodent Officer.	229.	11.	0.	259.	4.	1½.
	Gross Expenditure - Destruction of Rats.				259.	4.	1½.
	Gross Income - Destruction of Rats.				16.	10.	0.
	Net Expenditure - Destruction of Rats.				242.	14.	1½.

